

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /113 W

----- 065644

R 081020Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8658

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11242

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJ: PRC MESSAGE ON USSR'S OCTOBER REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

SUMMARY: PEKING'S MESSAGE TO THE SOVIET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION APPEARS SOMEWHAT LESS PROVOCATIVE THAN LAST YEAR'S, CONFORMING TO THE PRESENT LINE WHICH DOWNPLAYS PRC SUPPORT FOR THE SOVIET PEOPLE AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP AND REFERS ONLY TO BORDER QUESTIONS AS OUTSTANDING STATE-TO-STATE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NOVEMBER 6 JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE PRC NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS STANDING COMMITTEE AND THE STATE COUNCIL ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE USSR'S OCTOBER REVOLUTION GENERALLY FOLLOWS THE LINE SET BY SIMILAR MESSAGES IN RECENT YEARS. HOWEVER, AT LEAST IN THE FBIS VERSION WE HAVE SEEN, THIS YEAR'S MESSAGE OMITTS MOST OF THE STANDARD PARAGRAPH ON THE MEANING OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION AND THE PROVOCATIVE LINE WHICH SUPPORTED THE SOVIET PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO SAFEGUARD THE FRUITS OF THE VICTORY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION. THIS SHIFT AWAY FROM THE THEME THAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE WILL RISE UP AGAINST THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP IS IN
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LINE WITH OTHER RECENT STATEMENTS (E.G. THE RED FLAG ARTICLE RE-

PORTED IN HONG KONG 9474) DOWNPLAYING ANY IMPLICATION OF PRC INTER-FERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. THIS YEAR'S MESSAGE ALSO SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO THE NEED FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF "BORDER QUESTIONS" RATHER THAN THE BROADER FORMULATION OF "IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES" USED LAST YEAR. THIS ACCORDS WITH CHOU EN LAI'S TREATMENT AT THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS IN WHICH HE RESTRICTED HIS COMMENTS ON STATE-TO-STATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO THE BORDER QUESTION.

2. THE RANKING PRC OFFICIAL AT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION IN PEKING ONCE AGAIN WAS VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YU CHAN.
OSBORN

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